



Pennsylvania Departments of Drug and Alcohol Programs & Human Services

October 14, 2022

Jen Smith, Secretary



Meg Snead, Acting Secretary





DDAP

2022 Key Accomplishments



2022 DDAP Accomplishments

- Expanded the anti-stigma, behavior change campaign [Life Unites Us](#)
- Expanded the naloxone standing order multiple times
 - Officially filled 10,000 requests for naloxone through Pennsylvania's [mail-based naloxone program](#).
- Launched the Addiction Treatment Locator, Assessment, and Standards Platform, [ATLAS](#), in Pennsylvania
- Opened the drug and alcohol [recovery house licensure program](#)
- Received state appropriation of opioid settlement funding
- Continuing to support individuals in recovery through [Recovery Rising](#) initiative



DHS

2022 Key Accomplishments



2022 DHS Accomplishments

- **Federal funding through American Rescue Plan Act & continued support for providers**
 - Targeting supports to recruitment & retention, capacity building, innovation, & continued stability
- **Expanding access to life-saving and life-sustaining postpartum health care**
- **Launching pilot doula program at SCI Muncy and enhancing family supports for pregnant and parenting women who are incarcerated**
- **Continuing to support families through economic insecurity**



DDAP

Strengthening Treatment Initiatives



Strengthening Treatment Initiatives

- **Federal funding allocations to Single County Authorities and providers**
 - Dollars for general treatment services
 - Dollars for specialty grants to expanded case management, assist pregnant and parenting women, and veteran support services
- **Expanding access to integrated treatment**
 - Pennsylvania Coordinated Medication Assisted Treatment (Pac-MAT) program, Opioid Centers of Excellence (COEs)
- **Warm Handoff Programs**
 - Implemented in 160 Pennsylvania hospitals (95 percent of the total hospitals)
 - More than 41,000 individuals have been directly referred to treatment since 2017.
- **PA Get Help Now Hotline for accessing treatment**
- **Partnership with Department of Corrections for MAT expansion**
- **Law enforcement diversion to treatment programs both at the state and local levels**

Strengthening Treatment Initiatives continued

➤ **PITT PERU Rural Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment in Pennsylvania (RAMP)**

- Since December 2021, Pitt PERU partnered with 25 healthcare sites across 19 counties.
- The PERU team held 69 teleconsultation sessions with MAT providers and over 8,000 individuals received MAT services from the clinics who have been recruited and onboarded to the project.

➤ **ATLAS implementation**

- Includes 67% of all the licensed treatment facilities across the commonwealth.
- Since June 2022, more than 1,500 unique facility views and more than 1,600 completed assessments.

➤ **Continued ASAM implementation and integration within the system**

- Next steps include determining alignment with 3.7 level of care and taking a closer look at withdrawal management
- Monthly ASAM Technical Assistance Series

➤ **Rate setting changes**

- Collapse of 3.5 levels within XYZ packet
- Addition of 3.7 into XYZ packet
- Closer alignment with MCO rates



DDAP - DHS

Mental Health & SUD Treatment Integration



Partner Agencies

➤ **DHS**

- Pennsylvania's Medicaid agency
- Through the Medical Assistance program, DHS facilitates access to comprehensive behavioral health services to help people with mental health or substance misuse challenges.

➤ **DDAP**

- Pennsylvania's Single State Authority for SUD services
- Responsible for the administration of control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education, and training activities within the department and across state agencies.

Treatment Integration

➤ Centers of Excellence

- Developed in 2016, the COEs are health care providers that were initially grant-funded for the purpose of improving access to MAT, coordinating physical and behavioral health care, and using care management and peer support services to keep patients engaged and supported along the continuum of care.
- 2019 study compared individuals with OUD who were treated by a COE against those individuals with OUD who did not receive treatment from a COE
 - 40 percent increase in primary care visits
 - 31 percent increase in engagement in treatment after receiving an OUD diagnosis
 - 10 percent increase in behavioral health counseling visits

➤ Telehealth

- As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, DHS and DDAP made changes to telehealth policies to improve access to treatment while face-to-face visits were discouraged for public health reasons.
- OMHSAS publishing telehealth best practices guide today, more resources for providers like webinars and additional guidance coming in the near future.

➤ Harm Reduction

- Fentanyl test strips
- Syringe services programs
- Naloxone expansion



DHS

Value-Based Purchasing

Value-Based Purchasing

➤ Value-Based Purchasing

- Implemented in Behavioral HealthChoices in 2018 with a 5 percent floor
- For 2022, BH-MCOs must invest at least 30 percent of medical spending in value-based purchasing models
 - At least half must invest in medium and high-risk strategies.
- Since 2019, value-based medical spending in Behavioral HealthChoices has increased by nearly \$400 million thanks to this work.



DDAP - DHS

Critical Provider Issues



DDAP Provider Issues

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the delivery of drug and alcohol treatment services, throughout 2021-2022 DDAP conducting listening sessions throughout the state.

- Prevention programming was greatly altered, particularly during the 2020-21 school year, due to restrictions on going into schools
- Schools are still experiencing an overwhelming increase in students' mental health needs
- There is an overall lack of job training and retention among Certified Recovery Specialists
- County drug and alcohol offices are experiencing staffing shortages
- Telehealth presented both benefits and challenges

DHS Provider Issues

- **Continued health and stability of the human services workforce**
- **Adult Mental Health Commission**
 - **Recommendations released last week for \$100 million of ARPA funding for adult mental health:**
 - \$37 million: Stabilizing, strengthening, and expanding the behavioral health workforce
 - \$23.5 million: Improving mental health and crisis response supports in the criminal justice and public safety systems
 - \$39 million: Expanding capacity for services and supports



DDAP 2023 Initiatives



Departmental Goals

Reduce
Stigma

Intensify
Primary
Prevention

Strengthen
Treatment
Systems

Empower
Sustained
Recovery

Reducing Stigma Objectives

The department will mobilize efforts to educate the public about the science of addiction, identifying stigmatizing language, and the harms in disregarding SUD as simply a “moral failing.”

- **Addiction as a medical disease**
- **Harm reduction strategies**
- **Share and celebrate recovery stories**

Intensify Primary Prevention Objectives

The department will increase resources and technical assistance to Single County Authorities, local nonprofits, and community coalitions in support of local prevention programming to positively influence the commonwealth around the topic of addiction.

- **Expand evidence-based curricula**
- **Support Community Programming**
- **Strengthen family-based services**

Strengthen Treatment System Objectives

As the department has worked to expand access to treatment services, we will start to shift to target changes in promoting first-rate treatment, supporting providers, and integrating quality metrics into practice.

- **Training in evidence-based practices**
- **Capitalize on system upgrades**
- **Standardize policies and procedures**
- **Eliminate barriers to Medication-Assisted Treatment**
- **Modernize rate setting and payment model**
- **Expand workforce capacity and proficiency**
- **Integrate quality measures**

Empower Sustained Recovery Objectives

The department supports the continued development of a strong network across the commonwealth to prepare individuals for their transition into a life of recovery.

- **Establish sustainable funding and support**
- **Recovery friendly-business network**
- **Support careers in field of recovery**
- **Aid establishment of recovery schools**
- **Encourage family-centered recovery**
- **Promote pardon process**

2023 DHS Initiatives

- **Preparing for potential end of Public Health Emergency**
 - **Current declaration expires in January 2023.**
 - **When the PHE ends, all Medicaid recipients must complete a renewal or risk being disenrolled – this will not happen immediately.**
 - **Goal is to keep Pennsylvanians through Medicaid if they are eligible or through Pennie and CHIP if they no longer qualify – if they complete their renewal and are ineligible, they will receive a direct connection to Pennie.**
 - **We need all partners to help educate Pennsylvanians about the end of the PHE – visit www.dhs.pa.gov/phe for resources and to sign up for updates.**
 - **Thank you for your partnership!**

Contact info

Jen Smith

jensmith@pa.gov

Meg Snead

msnead@pa.gov